

# Candidate shortage plagues SGA elections

By Jerry Trently

Lack of student response has prompted Student Government President, Tom Halley, to extend the application deadline for prospective student government candidates.

As of the original March 18 application deadline, 13 candidates had signed up for a screening meeting and only nine had turned in applications. SGA screens students before they are officially allowed to declare themselves candidates.

When first contacted, Halley said the application deadline would be adhered to but later reversed his decision after talking to Screening Committee Chairman, Tom Steck.

"He (Steck) told me there were a number of candidates interested who had signed up



for screening meetings but had failed to turn their applications in," Halley said.

"I question the responsibility of people who can't meet

deadlines," he said, "But we don't want to kill interest."

Last Fall, only 286 of the campus' 2,000 plus student population voted in an election that led to the passage of a revised SGA constitution, and elected junior senators.

One problem is that elections thrive on publicity. Realistically, ours enjoys little.

One solution could be the allowance of more campaign time for candidates who are not allowed advertisement prior to their screening. Screening meetings could be held at an earlier date.

Another solution could make full use of the campus' media. I refer not solely to WNDR radio, and Capitol Times, but to use of instructional service equip-

ment. If cleared, a live presidential debate could be video taped with this equipment.

For example, preliminary conversation on this matter has led to the consideration of the Lion's Den for the taping. Holding the debate at a strategic time, like the lunch hour, would expose candidates to a large lunch-time crowd. Placement then, of a television in the dorm cafeteria would equally reach yet another audience.

Although this concept is now an infant, proper management could lead to a mature tool for campus communication, while making students more aware of problems like the candidate shortage.

## SGA Elections: A look at executive office candidates

SGA elections are April 11 and 12. Featuring of candidates here is based on signatures for screening meetings.

Applicants featured here are subject to a screening by an SGA committee before they are considered official candidates.

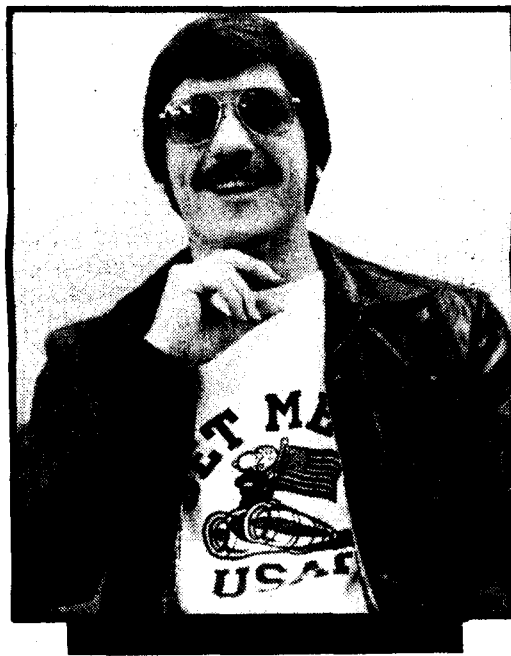


Joe Oddo

Presidential candidate Joe Oddo is a Public Policy major at Capitol Campus. He previously attended Penn state's McKeesport campus.

Currently Oddo is vice-president of the International Affairs Association, an SGA senator, and a member of the Public Affairs Association on campus.

Oddo's campaign platform was unavailable for publication as of press time.



Glenn Buchfeller

Presidential candidate Glenn Buchfeller is a Business Administration major from Parkland, PA. Prior to Capitol Campus he attended Penn State's Allentown Campus.

At Capitol, Buchfeller is currently an SGA senator for Business Administration, treasurer for Beta Chi, a member of the accounting club, the data processing management club, and the Chi Gamma Iota Fraternity.

Through his experience in the armed forces he has "been exposed to a variety of cultures and learned to appreciate the diverse concerns and interests of different individuals."



Tom Dekle

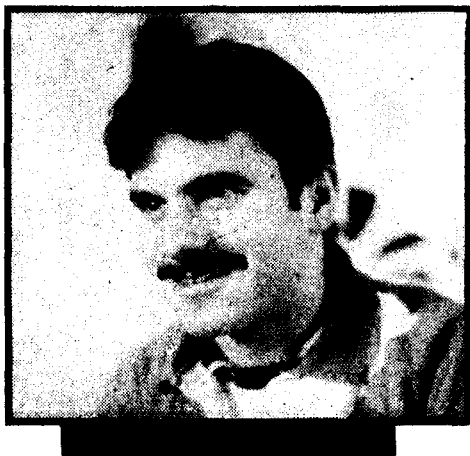
Presidential candidate Thomas Dekle is a Multi-Media Journalism major from Reading, PA. He attended Penn State's Berks Campus prior to coming to Capitol Campus.

Dekle describes SGA under his leadership as "cohesive," "exciting," and "exhilarating." "I am confident that I can bring a closer unity of students--drawing people from the dorms, Meade Heights, and commuters together to better enjoy the rewarding qualities of the college atmosphere," he says.

Rob Rejmanski

Vice-presidential candidate Rob Rejmanski from Richboro, PA is currently a member of the campus baseball team and sports editor for the CAPITOL TIMES.

"Teamwork" is the basis of his plans as SGA vice-president. "I am knowledgeable of the teamwork necessary to run an effective student government," he says, "and as captain of the varsity soccer team on campus I have gained the leadership qualities necessary to preside over the government in the president's absence."



Chris Barrett

Vice-presidential candidate Chris Barrett is a native of Hazelton, PA. Currently he serves as president of the International Affairs Association on campus.

The creation of a "Student Sounding Board" made up of faculty members who could answer students' questions is included in his plans as SGA vice-president.

Barrett, who is concerned with the semester-system change, says, "I will represent student interests if I am elected. Students will need orientation to all the changes."

